

I CLAIM:

1. An emergency roof detachment device for a vehicle comprising, in combination:

a vehicle having a fixed top portion, said fixed top portion defining an opening;

a crossbar having a first end and a second end, said first end of said crossbar being coupled to a passenger side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said second end of said crossbar being coupled to a driver side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle so that said crossbar reinforces said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said crossbar being dimensioned to bisect said opening into a front opening proximate a front windshield of said vehicle and a rear opening proximate a rear windshield of said vehicle, each said front opening and said rear opening being dimensioned to permit a person to pass therethrough;

a detachable roof portion having a front end and a back end and dimensioned to be detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said front end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a front windshield and said back end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a rear windshield; and

a handle coupled to an interior portion of said vehicle and dimensioned to initiate detachment of said detachable roof portion from said fixed top portion of said vehicle.

2. The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 wherein said handle comprises a quick-release mechanism.

3. The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 wherein said detachable roof portion being substantially rectangular-shaped.

4. The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 wherein said handle comprises:

a gripping arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said gripping arm dimensioned to be gripped by a person, said second end of said gripping arm being pivotally coupled to said detachable roof portion; and

a locking arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said locking arm being pivotally coupled to both said second end of said gripping arm and said detachable roof portion, said second end of said locking arm dimensioned to couple said locking arm to said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position.

5. The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 4 further comprising a pad coupled proximate said second end of said locking arm and dimensioned to cushion said locking arm from said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position.

6. The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 further comprising a plurality of prong members coupled to a back end of said detachable roof portion and dimensioned to mate with corresponding recessed portions defined by said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate said rear windshield when said detachable roof portion covering said opening.

7. The emergency roof detachment device of Claim 1 further comprising a reinforcing frame coupled about said fixed roof portion proximate said opening and dimensioned to reinforce said fixed roof portion.

8. A method for exiting a vehicle comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a vehicle having a fixed top portion, said fixed top portion defining an opening;

providing a crossbar having a first end and a second end, said first end of said crossbar being coupled to a passenger side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said second end of said crossbar being coupled to a driver side of said fixed top portion of said vehicle so that said crossbar reinforces said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said crossbar being dimensioned to bisect said opening into a front opening proximate a front windshield of said vehicle and a rear opening proximate a rear windshield of said vehicle, each said front opening and said rear opening being dimensioned to permit a person to pass therethrough;

providing a detachable roof portion having a front end and a back end and dimensioned to be detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle, said front end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a front windshield and said back end of said detachable roof portion being detachably coupled to said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate a top portion of a rear windshield;

providing a handle coupled to an interior portion of said vehicle and dimensioned to initiate detachment of said detachable roof portion from said fixed top portion of said vehicle; and

initiating detachment of said detachable roof portion from said fixed top portion.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said handle further comprises:

a gripping arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said gripping arm dimensioned to be gripped by a person, said second end of said gripping arm being pivotally coupled to said detachable roof portion; and

a locking arm having a first end and a second end, said first end of said locking arm being pivotally coupled to both said second end of said gripping arm and said detachable roof portion, said second end of said locking arm dimensioned to couple said locking arm to said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position.

10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:
pulling said gripping arm in a downward direction to uncouple said detachable roof portion from said fixed roof portion; and
pushing said detachable roof portion away from said fixed roof portion to uncover said opening.

11. The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:
covering said opening with said detachable roof portion; and
pushing said gripping arm parallel to said detachable roof portion to bring said locking arm into contact with said fixed roof portion in order to lock said detachable roof portion to said fixed roof portion.

12. The method of Claim 11 further comprising the step of providing a pad coupled proximate said second end of said locking arm and dimensioned to cushion said locking arm from said fixed roof portion when said locking arm being in a locked position.

13. The method of Claim 8 further comprising, in combination, the steps of:

providing a plurality of prong members coupled to a back end of said detachable roof portion; and

engaging said plurality of prong members with corresponding recessed portions defined by said fixed top portion of said vehicle proximate said rear windshield when said detachable roof portion covering said opening.

14. The method of Claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a reinforcing frame coupled about said fixed roof portion proximate said opening and dimensioned to reinforce said fixed roof portion.